

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

10/12/10 Conference call; 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Attendees:

DWR: Mike Ford, Angela Llaban, Carol Stroble

USFWS: Nick Hindman

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Jeremy Redding

SWRCB: Kari Kyler

DFG: Dan Kratville

USBR: John Hannon

Agenda:

- 1) Fishery data
- 2) Water project operations
- 3) DOSS annual report
- 4) DOSS annual review presentation
- 5) DCC/EBMUD request from USBR

Fish Monitoring: Data is through October 7; two trap samplings; no fish caught

Knights Landing: sampling began last week. Relevant for us because of Action 4.1.2 (p 635 of BO) re DCC gate operations and action triggers. First juvenile winter-run caught on October 11, 2010; water temp: 65°F

Delta Monitoring

Salvage Data: Tracking about a week behind on DFG website. Data posted through 10/6/10. No species of concern at fish facilities.

Merced R: October 4, one juvenile late-fall run Chinook; flow rate: 163 cfs.

FWS Sampling Data:

Stanislaus Weir:

September 27, 2010: 4 adult fall-run Chinook salmon; flow rate: 182 cfs

October 4, 2010: 2 adult fall-run Chinook salmon; 4 Chinook redds found; flow rate: 193 cfs

Snorkel Count: 13 since 10/1/10 downstream; cumulative weir count for 2010: 125 salmon

Tuolumne R:

October 4, 2010: 16 live fall-run Chinook; 2 skeletons and 1 tagged fish. Four redds were found. Flow rate was 595 cfs.

RBDD: winter run Chinook juvenile passage tracking lowest since 2003.

Operations:

Delta: Combined exports yesterday were 10,000 cfs; CVP at 4,000 cfs, SWP at 6,000 cfs

800 cfs pulse flow on Tuolumne; had an impact on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis increased to 2,300 cfs now. Two more pulses coming: Stanislaus started on 10/15; Merced started on 10/15, and will really increase around 10/24.

Keswick release: 6,061 cfs

Stanislaus R: 200 cfs

Trinity R: 440 cfs

Friant Dam release: 375 cfs

American: 1,500 cfs

Oroville: down to 2,500 cfs

Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates Closure:

DOSS received a notice from Thuy that she will be getting another request for DCC gate closure from EBMUD. Waiting for the official letter from them and are drafting a letter of support for closure. The planned closure is on 10/13; will close from 10/13 to 10/15.

Annual Report: DOSS members were thanked for taking time to review the draft report over the past week.

Group question: FWS, NMFS, DFG have given the okay on DOSS report. USBR is not sure yet. Thuy would be the one to make this decision. Last remaining editing discussion is between USBR and DWR and involved the OMR transition language. Andy and Mike tasked with draft. DOSS sent out edits in yesterday's email.

Goal: (Mike Ford) - what we're trying to convey (numerically) is that we're continually ratcheting the OMR target downward and not upward; may get to a point where projects operate at minimum public safety levels. DWR can't reduce much beyond those levels; due to uncertainties, such as tides flows and DWR may get into a situation when we just can't maintain export pumping at low OMR target. We could get to level that is beyond our control. FWS may be concerned that target level is impossible to meet.

DOSS could specify concerns; maybe remain "neutral" in the report itself but present concerns in the presentation next month. The language could capture the consensus perspective. Andy and Thuy will have the final say.

DOSS Presentation:

The presentation was scheduled for November 3–5. Although not been confirmed, plan to present on those dates. That gives 3 weeks to prepare. Bruce and Thuy have volunteered to be the operations and fish monitoring people to present to panel. No other participants. Presentations should be 20–30 minutes (no guidelines have been given us) and need suggestions from the group on what to include.

Overview of ops and fish data but highlight specific issue.

OMR transition language seem to be a big item. Panel may not be able to come up with solution for this. Very complicated – intent is to tell the panel that it is an issue and it's in development. No need to ask panel to make a decision; too complicated. Some discussion about using

predicted OMR instead of measured OMR. Came from 5-point Federal plan: more accuracy and more flexibility for OMR – apply data from USGS, but operators don't actually get that for several days. There is no way to more accurately measure OMR at this point. The idea was that we would develop a surrogate OMR to use on a day-to-day basis, but it never got off the ground.

If alternative calculations of OMR were enough, does that address the issue? Yes, the indices that we had in mind were daily targets, we use predicted data but correct for actual data.

OMR second trigger: DOSS is behind on this issue. Some edits have come in but we're not sure whether we can get all of them into the report. Maybe we should state the following in terms of a formal recommendation to DOSS and WOMT:

“The subgroup met and determined that the intended formula was “X”.

DOSS would include the NMFS determination, which gives both pros and cons. We're still coming up with a recommendation; don't want to ask panel for suggestions or to review at this point.

Send any thoughts out to the group on a focus for the presentation. Should DOSS have a subcommittee work on it? DWR probably does not want to be involved. Main authors should be Bruce, Barb, and Thuy; Nick is also willing to help. Will draft and send out to group for any suggestions.

There was interest in having legal review at NMFS. We might do a “dry run” the week of 10/25. Should have a good draft to send around by then.

Next meeting: 10/19/10 at 9:00 am.